

CURRENT PROVIDER VERSION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING

MASSACHUSETTS &

NATIONAL EMS STANDARDS

NATIONAL EMS EDUCATION STANDARDS

**NATIONAL EMS CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
& THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL EMS
CERTIFICATION BY THE NREMT**

NATIONAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE TRANSITION

VERSION I.A

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M A S S A C H U S E T T S
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
— DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH —

OVERVIEW

There are a lot of changes currently occurring to EMS in Massachusetts. The goal of this document is to answer many of the questions regarding these changes for **current providers**. This document is intended for the entire EMS community: **all EMS providers, educators, Service Directors and Chiefs, training officers, physicians, and other leadership.**

The most significant distinction to make is that there are two separate changes occurring that affect Massachusetts EMS providers' certifications:

- The adoption of National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification as the basis for Massachusetts initial certification and recertification, as part of the requirement to maintain MA state certification (licensure). and;
- The transition to the National EMS Scope of Practice model. These two changes are occurring independently of each other.

If you do not see your question answered, please email it to gibson.mccullagh@state.ma.us. Please be sure to regularly check our website (<http://mass.gov/dph/oems>) for the most recent version of this guide.

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CURRENT PROVIDERS: NREMT ADOPTION

Q1. I am currently a MA-certified EMT; do I need to be nationally certified by NREMT?

A1. No, current MA-certified EMTs will not be required to become a NREMT-certified EMT. Current MA-certified EMTs who also hold current NREMT certification will be required to maintain their NREMT certification and current MA-certified EMTs who once held NREMT-certification at the same level will be offered the opportunity to reinstate (see A4, below). MA-certified EMTs not currently holding NREMT certification are encouraged to obtain NREMT certification, but they will not be required to do so.

Q2. Do I have to take a test to maintain my current MA certification?

A2. No one will be required to test to maintain their MA certification. Due to the separate National EMS Scope of Practice transition, EMT-Intermediates will have to take a course and a written exam if they choose to become Advanced EMTs (please see National EMS Scope of Practice: EMT-Intermediates).

Q3. What is the significance of the July 1, 2013 deadline for our state's adoption of the NREMT?

A3. The July 1, 2013 deadline only applies to initial certification; on July 1, 2013 OEMS will be adopting the NREMT certification as the entry requirement for Massachusetts certification. The last possible day for an examination to occur under the old-MA-testing standard is June 30, 2013.

Q4. I once held NREMT certification but let it lapse. I hear I may be able to get it back. How do I do this?

A4. Current MA EMTs who once held NREMT certification at the same level, but let it lapse, will be able to reinstate their NREMT status between July 1, 2013 and January 1, 2014 without any testing under the Mark King Initiative. The NREMT will be contacting all MA EMTs who this applies to. If you do not hear from the NREMT by August 1, 2013 and you believe you should have, please contact OEMS.

Q5. I am not certified by the NREMT. If I am interested in obtaining certification, how can I?

A5. **The only way to obtain National EMS certification is to successfully complete the appropriate NREMT certification examination process.** Providers will not be "grandfathered" into the NREMT based on a MA certification. If individuals are interested in obtaining this national certification, they should visit <http://nremt.org>.

